

## Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

CCO-00 USSS-00 USIE-00 FBIE-00 IO-14 SY-04 SCCT-02

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 A-01 OPR-02 AID-05 NIC-01 DRC-01

INRE-00 /111 W

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O 031605Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1654

INFO USUN NY IMMEDIATE 0300

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4072

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: HUTCHINSON CASE

1. AFTER INTENSIVE EXCHANGES OF TELEPHONE CALLS WITH MY TWO COLLEAGUES, DR. QUEZADA AND POLICE CHIEF GUZMAN BETWEEN 7 AND 9 P.M. LAST NIGHT, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE THREE CHIEFS OF MISSION WOULD DELIVER A NEW SUPPLY OF FOOD AND WATER, VICE MSGR. POLANCO. BY PLACING OURSELVES WHERE WE COULD BE SEEN AND COULD COMMUNICATE TO MENDEZ VARGAS BY SHOUTING, WE WOULD ACT AS GUARANTORS OF THE POLICE PLEDGE THAT IF ONE OR MORE CAPTORS WITH OR WITHOUT HOSTAGES CAME OUT TO PICK UP THE FOOD NOTHING WOULD HAPPEN TO THEM. MY EFFORTS DURING THE DAY TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF DRINKING WATER AND TO PROVIDE WATER FOR SANITARY PURPOSES SUCCEEDED WHEN GUZMAN AGREED TO SUBSTITUTE ADDITIONAL WATER FOR THE COKES (WHICH UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES DO NOT PROVIDE THE PAUSE THAT REFRESHES) AND TO PERMIT WATER FOR HYGIENE (INTERESTINGLY, GUZMAN HIMSELF PROVIDED THE NON-POTABLE WATER IN A TEN GALLON MILK CAN FROM HIS FARM). AMONG  
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THE THREE OF US IT WAS AGREED THAT I WOULD PROVIDE THE

SANDWICHES, THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR THE DRINKING WATER AND THE VENEZUELAN CHARGE THE MEDICINE FOR HIS VICE CONSUL (LATER WE AGREED TO ROTATE THE CHORES).

2. WHEN THE THREE OF US MET WITH COL. GUERRERO, THE SENIOR OFFICER "ON THE LINE", WE WERE INFORMED THAT THE CAPTORS HAD SENT WORD THAT THEY DID NOT WANT ANY DELIVERY BECAUSE OF DARKNESS. WE REPLIED THAT WE DESIRED TO HEAR THAT FROM THE KIDNAPPERS THEMSELVES. GUERRERO RELUCTANTLY AGREED UPON CONDITION THAT I NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE ENTERPRISE BECAUSE "YOU ARE TOO IMPORTANT, MR. AMBASSADOR." SINCE ACCEPTING HIS CONDITION WOULD HAVE SIGNIFIED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUCH RELATIVE IMPORTANCE AND THEREBY WOULD HAVE OFFENDED MY PROUD, SENSITIVE AND SENIOR CATALAN COLLEAGUE AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, WOULD HAVE PROVIDED A CONSPICUOUS ABSENCE IN FRONT OF THE ASSEMBLED US AND DOMINICAN NEWS MEDIA TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE SERVICE'S REPUTATION FOR INTESTINAL FORTITUDE, GUERRERO AND I HAD A FEW PRIVATE WORDS WHICH RESULTED IN HIS REVERSING HIS POSITION (IN FAIRNESS TO GUERRERO, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT HE WAS IN WEAKENED CONDITION, SUFFERING FROM THE FLU AND A FEVER).

3. HAVING OVERCOME THOSE TWO OBJECTIONS, THE THREE OF US PROCEEDED TO A SPOT DIRECTLY OPPOSITE AND ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE VENEZUELAN CONSULATE, ACCOMPANIED OF COURSE BY A GROUP OF ARMED POLICE IN COMBAT UNIFORMS. (COL. GUERRERO DIRECTED THE "OPERATION" FROM BEHIND A NEARBY WALL). THERE WAS JUST SUFFICIENT LIGHT UPON US FROM A NEARBY STREET LIGHT FOR THE CAPTORS TO SEE US. MY STENTORIAN-VOICED SPANISH FRIEND WAS THE SPOKESMAN. HE CALLED OUT TO RADHAMES (AFTER NEARLY A WEEK OF BEING IMMersed IN THE PROBLEM, HE SEEMS TO HAVE BECOME QUITE CHUMMY), IDENTIFIED ALL OF US, AND INFORMED HIM THAT WE HAD BROUGHT FOOD, WATER AND SOME MEDICINE. THERE FOLLOWED SOME TEN MINUTES OF DISCUSSION WITH HIM AS TO HOW TO PROCEED AND IT WAS FINALLY AGREED WITH HIM AND THE POLICE THAT WE WOULD MOVE DIRECTLY UNDER THE STREET LIGHT, HE WOULD BE GIVEN TIME TO "MAKE INTERNAL DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS" AND SIGNAL WHEN READY. IN THE COURSE OF ALL OF THIS, THE SPANIARD TALKED FIRST TO HIS SPANISH PRIEST, I TALKED TO BARBARA (SHE IS JUST GREAT\*) AND OUR VENEZUELAN FRIEND ENGAGED IN AN UNNECESSARILY LONG

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COLLOQUY WITH HIS CONSUL WHO WAS URGING US TO PRESSURE THE GODR FOR THEIR RELEASE. WHEN ALL WAS IN READINESS, ONE OF THE DOMINICAN POLICE WHO CONSTITUTE MY EVERY-DAY PERSONAL ESCORT SERVICE CARRIED THE CASE OF DRINKING WATER AND THE BAG OF SANDWICHES ACROSS THE STREET TO A POINT ABOUT THREE FEET WITHIN THE GATE LEADING TO THE CONSULATE. (THE WATER FOR HYGIENE HAD ALREADY BEEN PLACED THERE EARLIER BY THE POLICE SURROUNDING THE CONSULATE). I SHOULD NOTE HERE

THAT THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR, WHO IS LOCALLY NOTED FOR THE ELEGANCE OF HIS TABLE, COULD NOT REFRAIN, IN HIS DIALOGUE WITH MENDEZ VARGAS, FROM POINTING OUT THAT HE HAD SUPPLIED THE WATER FROM HIS PERSONAL STOCK OF THE BEST SPAIN HAD TO OFFER (MY COMMERCIAL ATTACHE WHO HAS BEEN PUSHING US EXPORTS IS A BIT DISAPPOINTED OVER THIS MISSED OPPORTUNITY TO PUT IN A PLUG FOR ONE OF OUR PRODUCERS.

4. AFTER A MOMENT OR TWO OF WAITING, THERE EMERGED FROM THE DARKENED INTERIOR OF THE CONSULATE A HALF-CLAD BROWN-SKINNED MUSCULAR YOUNG MAN WHO SWUNG THE TEN GALLON JUG ONTO HIS BARE SHOULDER IN ONE SWOOPING GESTURE AND CARRIED IT INSIDE. TWO SIMILAR TRIPS AND THAT PART OF THE SHOW WAS OVER.

5. RADHAMES THEN CALLED OUT THAT THEY WERE ALL OUT OF CIGARETTES, ANTIBIOTICS AND A DOCTOR FOR THE WOUNDED MAN WERE NEEDED AS WELL AS A DOCTOR FOR THE VENEZUELAN VICE CONSUL. THE SPANIARD SAID HE WOULD TAKE NOTE. THROUGHOUT THIS DIALOGUE, MENDEZ VARGAS WAS NOTABLY UNEXCITED AND POLITE. THERE WOULD SEEM TO BE NO QUESTION THAT HE IS IN CONTROL OF HIMSELF AT THIS TIME.

6. I REGRET HAVING HAD TO DELAY MY TELEPHONIC REPORT TO THE OP CENTER REGARDING OUR SAFE AND SUCCESSFUL MISSION, BUT THE VENEZUELAN WAS REALLY SCARED OUT OF HIS WITS, OVERCOME BY THE "DRAMA" OF IT ALL, SO I SUGGESTED HE COME UP TO THE RESIDENCE FOR A DRINK. A GLASS OF ICE WATER REVIVED HIM. (IN FAIRNESS TO THE 57-YEAR-OLD VENEZUELAN, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT HE IS PROBABLY IN A SOMEWHAT WEAKENED CONDITION BEING MARRIED TO AN ATTRACTIVE WOMAN TWENTY ONE YEARS HIS JUNIOR).

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7. MY COLLEAGUES AND I ARE CONCERTING HERE IN A FEW MINUTES BEFORE PROCEEDING TO A 9:30 A.M. MEETING WITH GENERAL GUZMAN IN ORDER TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TODAY. I'D LIKE TO THINK THAT BASED ON LAST NIGHT'S PERFORMANCE, MSGR. POLANCO WOULD NOW REGARD US AT LEAST AS NOVIATIAES. HURWITCH

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## Message Attributes

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